

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST REGISTRATION COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

April 24, 2007 Tuesday  
9:00AM – 12:00PM  
Radisson Hotel Suite 301  
500 Leisure Lane  
Sacramento, CA

#### Members Present:

Ms. Dianne Martinez, REHS, Chairperson, CEHA representative  
Ms. Alicia Enriquez, REHS, Secretary, Public Sector – arrived at 9:20AM  
Mr. Todd Frantz, REHS, Private Sector  
Mr. Ben Gale, MPA, REHS, CCDEH  
Mr. Larry Dwoskin, REHS, CCDEH  
Dr. Antonio Machado, PhD, REHS, University representative, CSU Northridge

#### **QUORUM ESTABLISHED**

#### Members Absent:

Ms. Shelia Reed, MS, Public Member Appointed by the Assembly  
Dr. Dean Kelaita, MD, Health Officer, Calaveras County  
Dr. Lal Mian, PhD, REHS University representative, CSU San Bernardino

#### Environmental Health Specialist Registration Program Staff Present:

Mr. Glenn Takeoka, REHS, Chief Environmental Health Services Section, Executive Officer  
Ms. Margaret Blood, REHS, Registration Program Administrator

#### Guests

Mr. Doug Turner, REHS, CPS Human Resource Services

#### **Opening Remarks**

Dianne Martinez, Chairperson

At 9:07 AM Chairperson Martinez asked the committee members to come to order and a quorum was established. The members introduced themselves. The first order of business was election of officers. Dr. Machado was nominated by Mr. Dwoskin and seconded by Mr. Takeoka; Dr Machado's election was unanimous. Dr. Machado made a motion to retain the current Secretary until she arrived, Mr. Takeoka seconded and the motion carried. Secretary Enriquez arrived at 9:20.

Chairperson Martinez asked the members to review the minutes from the January 3, 2007 meeting. The minutes were approved without corrections.

#### **CDHS Program Update**

Glenn Takeoka, Executive Officer

Mr. Takeoka provided the committee with statistics on the registration program, including: the total number of registrants 3725; of which 257 are suspended for failure to pay fees; 435 are retired and 3033 are active. There are currently 1106 certifiable applicants with recent (i.e. within 3 years) letters of eligibility issued by the REHS program.

Mr. Takeoka described the proposed reorganization of the Department of Health Services into the Department of Public Health and the Department of Health Care Services which is a return to the organizational structure of the 1970's. New directors for the newly created health centers will be named. As of July 1, 2007, when the reorganization is implemented, the Division of Drinking Water may lose some resources in personnel, finance and legal support. The full implications and impacts both programmatic and budgetary will take time to realize. An advisory committee on public health issues is also a part of the new structure. Mr. Takeoka distributed copies of the proposed organizational chart for the Department of Public Health.

Mr. Gale suggested that the Environmental Health Specialist Registration Committee report directly to the Assistant to the Director of External Affairs.

### **Continuing Education Regulations**

The Continuing Education Regulations is under reviewed by the Health and Human Services Agency.

### **Education Subcommittee**

The minutes from March 19<sup>th</sup> conference call were distributed and discussed. Dr. Machado stated that the "grad. check" is a formalized program of review to ensure that the student has met all graduation requirements before the degree is issued. It is far stricter than it had been in the past. The program, called Solar System, will verify that the curriculum has been satisfied. It can not be easily overridden by university professors. This program has been in place since 2005 and applies to the California State University systems statewide. Mr. Turner commented that DHS-REHS will still need "someone" to review the transcripts. Ms. Martinez asked if we could accept the Education Subcommittee's recommendation for a year as a trial. Mr. Dwoskin remarked that if the university has an approved program it doesn't speak well to require students to go through an extensive additional review. Dr. Machado made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Education Subcommittee.

*"Graduates of approved Environmental Health degree programs with a completed 'Grad Check' will have the CPS Human Resource Services transcript evaluation waived, however they shall submit transcripts with degree posted to DHS-REHS for review."*

The motion passed unanimously.

Revised curriculum for the Option III/IV program at California State University, Chico was postponed for review by the Education Subcommittee during their conference call March 15<sup>th</sup> 2007.

**Training Coordinators** Margaret Blood, Program Administrator

A Training Coordinator meeting is scheduled Wednesday April 25<sup>th</sup>, as part of the CEHA-AES.

Program content outlines for slightly over half of the exam are in a “final” stage. This means they have been reviewed by a group of county training coordinators and it was agreed that the outline describes the important and routine knowledge and skills necessary to perform adequately on the job.

Final program elements:

- Basic Science
- Food Protection
- Drinking Water
- Inspections and Investigations
- Recreational Health

Draft program elements:

- Hazardous waste/materials
- Solid and Medical Waste
- Housing and Institutions
- Vector Control
- Wastewater
- Air Pollution
- Land Use
- Disaster Sanitation

The REHS exam questions are annually updated, new questions are added and poor performing questions are re-written or eliminated. An Item Writing Workshop is scheduled for May to generally update the exam and specifically to reference the new statutory authority in California Retail Food Code.

**University Degree Programs** Margaret Blood, Program Administrator

**UCLA**

The Option V approval for the University of California, Los Angeles is overdue for a review of the environmental health program. Dr. Jane Valentine has contacted the DHS-REHS program and assured us that she is working very hard to get approval by her university administration in order to submit the self-study. She has completed the study and is waiting for their reply.

**California State University, San Bernardino**

California State University, San Bernardino was granted full three year approval for an Option V Environmental Health degree program in April 2004. The program is due for an update review this year. Dr. Mian submitted the self-study April 1, 2007 and program staff is currently reviewing his submittal. University programs are reviewed every three years and visited every six years.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Environmental Health Directors without REHS**

Mr. Gale stated that this is not a current problem; the directors in the affected counties are REHS. However, the existing San Francisco Director, Ken Sato is scheduled to retire this year. He also said that the state or a third party outside review of local environmental health programs is recognized by CCDEH as an important tool to provide effective service. There are serious conversations ongoing between CCDEH and CDHS.

### **Student Forum**

For a second year REHS program staff organized a student forum for the CEHA-AES. This year we targeted fewer schools and made the event less formal with an emphasis on networking, how to get through the application process and how to get a trainee position. We encouraged local county directors to assign their staff to make classroom presentations, post flyers, prepare class announcements, and/or write articles for school newspapers. We identified and contacted universities in each of the nearby counties and provided each interested Environmental Health Director with a copy of a generic REHS recruitment PowerPoint presentation as well as flyers for posting at the schools. We asked CCDEH to collaborate with us by helping with the planning and outreach efforts.

Mr. Gale asked about recruitment issues. Santa Clara County has no trouble filling positions with highly qualified and competent persons. Santa Clara relies on word of mouth, mentors and role models. Santa Clara County also invests heavily in training programs.

Dr. Machado described the Environmental and Occupational Health Department alumni association's efforts to recruit students into the Environmental and Occupational Health Department. They have two events a year when they invite alumni back to campus. In April they sponsor a "speed mentoring" event where each student is paired with an alumnus and they have five minutes to describe where their careers have taken them. The November event is a technical symposium this year it will be on nano technology.

### **Ethics speaker**

John Gregg, UC Davis, will speak on Friday April 27<sup>th</sup> 10:00 at the CEHA-AES on the topic of professional ethics and the REHS.

### **Next Meeting**

October 24<sup>th</sup> 2007 at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, CA

At 12:09 Chairperson Martinez adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Margaret Blood